

ad Hoc CAPP Trails Committee
April 25, 2013

Members present: Ron Harrold, Jon Berg, Bonnie Matuseski, Ed Kale, John Carlson, Lee Ann Schaub, Carol Sowl, Mary Ross, Carol Neubauer and Keith Sowl, Chair.

Members absent: Margie Frederickson, William "Tibbs" Tibble

Public present: Dave Thomas

1. Call to order.

K. Sowl, Chair calls the meeting of the Trails Committee to order at 4:34 pm on Thursday, April 25, 2013. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in members listed above.

2. Minutes of the following meeting ad Hoc Trails Committee meeting to be considered for approval:

A. January 21, 2013

2nd pg 2nd paragraph insert the word "*when*" a particular trail....

2nd pg 3rd paragraph insert the words "*Part of the North End Trail*" in place of "The trail" and continuing in that sentence replace "the" creek with "*a*" creek.

Toward bottom of page *Ruhl* is misspelled.

Motion by K. Sowl to accept the minutes as amended, second, E. Kale. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

B. February 21, 2013

Agenda item #5: Strike "Twelve members would require a quorum of 8 members" and insert: "*A quorum consists of a majority*".

pg 2 agenda item #7 add "*relating to sanctioning the trails by the Town that are partially on private property*" to the end of the sentence beginning with "Liability issues..."

Ron Harrold was not present at meeting.

Motion by K. Sowl to approve the February 21, 2013 ad Hoc Trails Committee minutes as amended, second, M. Ross. All in favor, all aye. R. Harrold abstain. Motion carried.

3. Review of the Five Year Recreational Trails Master Plan.

Strike the original introduction and insert Keith's suggestion (in bold). Add an "n" to the word "know".

Capser Trail

Introduction.

K. Sowl has the original trail brochure that shows the north end trail and the south end trail on the front and "Travel at your own risk" on the back. This brochure is outdated. B. Matuseski has the rack card from the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve (MIWP) that lists the MIWP summer program schedule on the front and a map of the Island trails on the back. This rack card is placed in several places on the Island and at the Ferry Line kiosk in Bayfield.

Discussion of the wordage "The trail is included in the Trail Brochure..." Agreement to strike this sentence because: 1. does not matter if a trail is mentioned in a brochure. 2. Would this require a brochure that is produced by the Town of La Pointe and kept current?

Agreement to use the MIWP rack card.

Suggestion to include the words: "Capser Trail was developed in conjunction with the MIWP/ or with approval of the MIWP." in the last sentence.

Recommendations:

#2: "*The easement with the MIWP stipulates a review every five years.*" Change that sentence

to: "a 20 year easement with the MIWP established in 2006 stipulates a review every five years."

#3 and #4 no changes.

#5 add: *trail with gravel surface as originally constructed, with regular dragging, grading and compaction to ensure a safe, accessible trail for all users.*" Discussion of the level of maintenance Capser Trail should require and by whose standards will the trail be maintained. The original intent of the Capser Trail was not to trip over roots and to have a smooth trail where nature took its course. K. Sowl said there is nothing in the grant that requires that the trail be maintained as a gravel trail.

Volunteers can help with trail maintenance by hauling gravel to fill holes but not with dragging, grading or compacting. If the trail was not maintained in the original fashion in which it was established would the trail last for 20 or 40 years? K. Sowl said if the trail was not graded it might get to the point where the grass would need to be mowed on the edges but if the town removes fallen trees, fixes the washouts, and replaces or adds culverts the trail will have nice walking surface.

B. Matuseski said the MIWP thinks the standards need to be discussed by this committee. Suggestion to state the Town will remove trees, fix washouts and mow the edges on occasion. As long as the trail is maintained as an 8 foot wide trail there is not a need to worry about the surface as long as the surface is smooth. Fix the potholes; but to maintain this trail like a gravel road is cost prohibitive.

K. Sowl will re-write #5 and bring the re-write back for discussion.

K. Sowl will find out if there are wheelchair/ADA requirements.

Suggestion to leave a drag in the woods and someone with a 4-wheeler could go up and down the trail a few times. K. Sowl said dragging will prevent the surface from becoming a mowable surface. K. Sowl will insert wordage in this regard for the next meeting.

Agreement to remove #6.

Nucy Meech Trail

Introduction

Remove "trail is included in the trail brochure"

B. Matuseski said the MIWP discussed this trail in length at their board meeting because this trail is on MIWP land and members feel that it is the MIWP's responsibility to improve the trail. MIWP members would like this committee's input as to how and who could do these improvements. At the last Trails Committee meeting suggestions were to use a power rake, remove the deadfalls, get signage up and repair the exclosure. The MIWP would like to make a sign in honor of Bill Wheeler who built the exclosure that includes the history of why the exclosure is there.

Specifics are needed for bidding as to how to repair the trail. Signage is also needed on the trail. To be noted is that the MIWP also wants signage on the North End trails.

There are not too many drainage issues. One small area would need a boardwalk.

Agreement to strike #1 and add the new language as shown in italics for #4.

Suggestion not to put anything in the recommendations about snowmobiling since this trail is so narrow. A snowmobile will have to pack the trail on occasion.

B. Matuseski said the MIWP realizes the upgrade will take money but the MIWP would like people to be able to walk on the trail and not get lost. Suggestion to bring in a chipper to chip up the deadfalls and use those chips on the trail. However, if wood chips are used the trail would have to be re-chipped every year.

Suggestion that B. Matuseki talk to Tibbs, Arnie Nelson, Greg Nelson and the smaller

landscapers and ask for bids for a 4-6 foot wide trail, preferably 6 feet so that an ATV could go in and clear deadfalls. Suggestion that the ~~L~~Nucy Meech trail should be a dirt path with planks over wet areas. Could ask for bids by Memorial Day if the snow melts.

Bicycle Lanes.

Agreement that bicycle lanes are badly needed. Use the highlighted language in the plan.

4. North End Trail: use, development, maintenance and easements.

B. Matuseki said the North End Trail was discussed at the MIWP meeting and the consensus of MIWP members was that these are winter trails for skiing and to improve them for summer use would be a tremendous amount of work. For now the MIWP would like to put their energy and money into developing the Nucy Meech Trail.

The MIWP wants signage put up this summer asking ATVs to stay off the north end trails as these trails are being beaten up by ATV use. The MIWP lands are public lands that can be regulated in regards to motor vehicle use. Who would enforce the no ATV use is a question. Agreement that there is a need to keep ATVs, which are used mainly during hunting season, off the trails. Could ask the police or the DNR to do some patrolling during gun and bear season. At the County level certain trails are gated so ATVs cannot use the trails but sometimes the gates are just cut down or riders go around them.

Suggestion to send out a letter in August/Sept saying that the use of an ATV adversely impacts these north end trails; that the use of ATVs is damaging the land and trails so that the trails are becoming difficult to pass even in winter. This letter from the Trails Committee and the MIWP could be sent to everyone on the Island and put in the June and September Gazette and signed "from a trails enthusiast."

Discussion that not all ATVs ruin trails; ATVs are used to maintain trails by hauling out deadfalls, etc. so how to define the difference is important.

Question of what guidelines the snowmobile club uses when they close trails to ATVs. C. Neubauer said the DNR is on the trails, there are trail ambassadors who can ticket people who use trails designated for snowmobiles or skiing only; and the County and State foresters are out on the trails. Violators can be ticketed; their registration evoked for snowmobile, ATV or boat licenses. That should be kept out of the initial letter.

If there are continued violations deer tags or hunting licenses could be taken away. There has to be consequences or the violations will continue. There are not that many ATVs but when the trails are wet the trails are ruined by ATVs.

K. Sowl and C. Neubauer will work on the letter. B. Matuseki will work on signage and where the signage should go. C. Neubauer will find orange diamond markers and some no ATV's allowed signs. People might not know that ATVs are not allowed on these trails. K. Sowl will take the map and mark where the no ATV signs should go and will email B. Matuseki the map. K. Sowl would like the Town and the MIWP to keep working on the north end trails for all-purpose use, except by ATVs, by obtaining easements and slowly making improvements.

R. Harrold suggested breaking the trails into sections and prioritizing.

K. Sowl said if you go down a property line you need permission from owners on both sides of the line. C. Neubauer has a document from the State that says landowners are not liable for trails that cross their land. C. Sowl asked what happens if a property owner does not want a trail on their land that everyone will use. K. Sowl said you cannot advertise a trail when you have property owners who do not want people on their land. You would want the easements before you made improvements to the trail.

Suggestion to form a separate committee to discuss easements.

K. Sowl said he will move the trail out of the creek bed because there is a tree in the way.

C. Neubauer would like to visit the last sentence in the North End Trail Master plan. There is a group that will work on the trail in the winter and she would like to reiterate that communication is needed because we do need more than one or two people out there on snowmobiles and suggests making this a recommended procedure. Would like to formalize the maintenance of this trail or get more people on a call list when it snows. Suggestion to use Facebook. Question of how much work for the summer is needed? Windstorms bring down lots of trees and you cannot take an ATV on the trails in spring; that has to wait until at least June and probably best after bear/deer season.

B. Matuseski will start on a letter for the June Gazette. K. Sowl will take the easement issue back up and get the MIWP to sign an easement. B. Matuseski said the MIWP will not sign until they know what the master plan is. She will ask the MIWP Board about the north end trail easement.

5. Discussion of 2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

CEDS is a county wide economic planning tool that the town has used over the years and is sent out by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Projects listed could be eligible for grant opportunities. K. Sowl will submit the same language for the same projects as last year.

Back to Trail master plan.

North Shore Lake Access

The main purpose of this trail was for winter access. Hard to hike.

Old Big Bay Road Trail

Lot of trees down. This trail is not passable in summer; the winter before the trail was passable. Could say the trail is for winter use only. The issue with this trail is that while most of the trail is on MIWP land, a small part crosses John Carlson's and his neighbor's land. J. Carlson will go and clear the trail after deer season.

A discussion was held with the State Park about connecting this trail with the State Park but the State wants to limit their entrances but now there is new management so there may be a change of thought.

The Master Recreational Trail discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Action items:

K. Sowl will make corrections to the Recreational Trail Master Plan as discussed.

C. Sowl will read the grant for Capser Trail RE: accessibility requirements.

B. Matuseki will work on the letter to the Gazette about the North End Trail.

K. Sowl will work on easements.

B. Matuseski will follow up on bids for Nucky Meech.

C. Neubauer will look into ATV signs and orange dashers.

6. Set Next Meeting(s) and Agenda(s).

Next meeting set for Trails set for Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 4:30 pm

7. Adjourn.

Motion by K. Sowl to adjourn, second, B. Matuseski. All in favor, all aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00pm

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant
Minutes approved as corrected; change struck through and correction in italics.